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*Hugh Cecil Earl of Lonsdale.*

200 **The Ladies' Practical Guide to the Science of Horsemanship. With a dedication to her most gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria. By George Reeves, Riding Master. Bath. 1838.**

12mo. 58 pp., frontispiece, and 8 plates. M., 6½ in. by 4 in.

On the frontispiece appear the following words :—

"England's fair Queen! beloved Victoria, hail!
Long may'st thou live, be happy, and enjoy
The free delight thy favourite steed affords thee.
Sprightly, well trained and gentle, proudly neighing,
Thy ornament in Peace, thy strength in War.
See how, exulting o'er the verdant plain,
He bears thee, conscious of the Royal hand
That guides him. From this gentle discipline
Arises health to mind and outward frame
With cheerful spirits and with rosy beauty."

THIS BOOK RESTORED IN 2019
THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF

GALE CAYCE

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Julia Milward.

THE

# LADY'S PRACTICAL GUIDE

TO THE SCIENCE

OF

# HORSEMANSHIP.

WITH A

DEDICATION TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,

QUEEN VICTORIA.

BY

GEORGE REEVES,

RIDING-MASTER.

Cheltenham

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AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1838.

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,

# QUEEN VICTORIA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—

*IN presuming to lay at the feet of your Most Gracious Majesty, this unpretending code of instructions and directions for the gentler sex—of which your Majesty is so illustrious an ornament—in the management of the Saddle Horse, my only reliance for its kind reception is, that, graceful and perfect as your Majesty is universally allowed to be in the accomplishment of Horsemanship, these rules will be instantly recognised by*

*one of your Majesty's judgment and discernment, as useful and valuable, because wholly grounded on practical experience.*

*In a work of this nature, your Majesty will not fail to prefer the unpretending simplicity of style which shall convey the instruction in the most clear and intelligible form, to any pedantic or ambitious aim at ornamental diction.*

*My sole object, throughout, has been to present to my fair readers the best practical suggestions for uniting ease and elegance with security and safety, in that accomplishment which is calculated, above all others, either as a recreation or an exercise, to impart health and strength to the more delicate sex.*

*To your Majesty's noble example, in promoting and patronising this graceful accomplishment, now so universally studied among the ladies of Great*

*Britain, numerous classes of your Majesty's loving subjects are deeply indebted, and none acknowledges his obligation with more profound and fervent gratitude, than the Author of these pages—*

*Your Majesty's*

*Most humble and devoted Liege,*

GEORGE REEVES.

Cheltenham, 1838.

THE

# LADY'S PRACTICAL GUIDE

TO THE SCIENCE OF

# HORSEMANSHIP.

" 'Tis the past
" Contending with the present, and in turn
" Each has the mastery." ROWE.

THE military word for Riding is " The Manage," which is composed of two Latin words, *manus*, the hand, and *ago*, to do, or act ; for the hand, in this case, is the principal instrument of acting, as it guides and governs the horse in all his movements, and the action may with propriety be termed *manus agere*, which is to say, skilfully to handle.

This power of guiding and governing the horse is used by gentlemen in conjunction with the leg; but, as ladies cannot avail themselves of this assistance with the same effect as gentlemen, there is the greater necessity of acquiring a knowledge of using the hand to advantage. Ladies must, therefore, bear in mind, that upon the bridle hand they must principally rely, on the skilful use of which, the security of their seat mostly depends.

Horses broken in hand instead of the lounge, are much better for ladies' riding, as they carry their heads better, and are more supple or pliant and obedient to the rein.—Although it must be allowed that much of this suppleness or pliancy of the neck depends upon the natural formation of the head and neck of the horse—yet it rests with the master to bring these qualifications into action, and those horses only which possess such natural advantages should be apportioned to ladies' use.

Docility and good temper, with a proper degree of spirit, are also properties of great importance Corrections should be sparingly administered by the hand of a lady; in fact, the necessity for such a proceeding should be guarded against, by carefully rejecting all horses that are naturally sluggish or vicious ; and it is presumed no respectable riding master would admit any such into his establishment. Yet, instances have been known, where horses correctly broken have shown symptoms of vice, even without apparent cause, and after years of good behaviour ; so that it is absolutely necessary always to observe well the head of the animal, by which means the rider may generally anticipate his motions.

The repeated solicitations of the author's pupils, on leaving him, to give them a few general directions on Riding, that may be of use to them on future occasions, has frequently caused him to draw up a few hasty rules, when his mind has

been too much engrossed to allow of that attention which so important a subject required. This solicitation, added to the advice of his friends, and a well-grounded conviction that such directions and advice would be of much assistance to those, who, from situation or other circumstances, are deprived of the advantage of a master's tuition, has induced him to embody all the requisite instructions in this little treatise—the author's real and only motive being to promote, to the best of his ability, an art which is at once so delightful, and now becoming so fashionable, under the high patronage and example of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria; which is, moreover, so conducive to health, and so strongly recommended by the medical profession to invalids, when exercise is necessary, as being beneficial alike to the mind and the body, if persevered in, and taken without fatigue.

Its importance to those in pursuit of health

being thus established, it is an object of the first consideration to facilitate the acquirement of the science; for, it must be borne in mind, that, to be of use, it should be persevered in, as it is not to be expected that very considerable advantage will be derived from a few exercises in riding.

The foregoing observations belong more properly to a Preface, but, as many persons are disposed to pass over such appendages to works of this kind, the author has taken the liberty of inserting them here, from an anxiety that his motives for thus obtruding himself on the public should not be misunderstood.

## ON THE RIDING DRESS.

It is very necessary that a lady should be careful to secure the hat; for, trifling as it may appear, it is a matter of much importance to her comfort, and also of safety, when riding; for, should it come off, its fall might make a nervous horse start, plunge, or even run away. If, again, it should be so secured, as, in getting loose, not to fall entirely on the ground, the horse, if spirited, will, perhaps, become alarmed at the action of raising the whip-hand in a hurry to replace it; such a movement being generally accompanied by a slight agitation or flutter of the whole body of the rider.

Against the wind bonnets generally become untied. This is a great objection to their use;

and they decidedly do not look in unison with the other appendages necessary for the ease and comfort of the rider.

Hats are certainly more suitable and becoming, and much more in accordance with equestrian costume.

## REMARKS ON THE RIDING SCHOOL.

Ladies have, in general, a great objection to the routine and monotony of the Riding-School, imagining that, if they can retain their seat tolerably well, and guide their horse, every difficulty is then surmounted; but, could they contrast the difference in the appearance of the self-taught rider with that of the pupil who has received instructions in the refined parts of horsemanship, they would be anxious, whenever an opportunity offered, to acquire the same superiority.

In the absence of the master, or in case one is not to be obtained, a lady cannot be too cautious in entrusting herself to the direction of an inexperienced groom, who is incapable or careless of his business.

It is always essential that the lady herself should know and carefully examine the bridle, saddle, and appendages, to ascertain if all be correct before she takes her seat.

First—with regard to the Bridle. Those used by ladies are generally of the sort called *double bridles*, (in fact, they are so, being composed of two parts, which are used separately.) The first is the "Snaffle," and the second the "Curb-bit," to which is attached a chain called the "Curb-chain." It should be particularly noticed, that this curb-chain must be placed smooth and even, so as to avoid turning, cutting, or chafing the animal's mouth; it should also be seen that the mouth-piece is neither too high nor too low, but placed so as not to wrinkle the skin or hang too loosely. If, in fixing the curb, the chain is turned to the right, the links will unfold themselves. The snaffle must on all occasions be uppermost—that is to say, the reins of it must be above those

of the curb, whether used separately or together.

Next—with regard to the Saddle. The girths should be drawn moderately tight, but not too straight, which will, in a great measure, prevent the saddle from becoming loose. Want of attention to these particulars may be productive of much pain to the horse, and inconvenience, if not danger, to the rider. The saddle should be so placed, as to lie near the back-bone; for, the nearer the seat is to the back of the animal, the better that seat and balance can be preserved.

The Curb-rein, as before mentioned, must be handled with great care. The author, in teaching, allows only a Snaffle Bridle until the pupil is a little acquainted with the nature and method of using the bridle hand, and has acquired a good seat. The limits and object of this work, being "multum in parvo," it is not necessary to enter into the details of the riding-school; at the same time, it is incumbent on the author to impress on

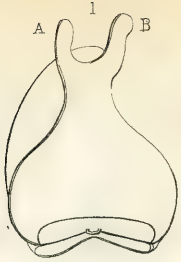
the minds of those who are desirous of acquiring the art of riding gracefully, that nothing is so effective in confirming the seat, from its variety of action, as the large and narrow changes which the evolutions in the school admit of. They exercise the lady in her balance, aids, &c., and unquestionably the horse is rendered more obedient.

Working the volts, changes, reverse, and demi volts, ladies too often dislike; others, again, possessing a greater knowledge of the art, object to the continual direction of cantering, &c.; but, where a pupil will conform, and devote the time necessary to acquire that perfection which is so desirable, the minutiæ of the art should be attended to; the intention of which is, however, not to enforce that set and studied drill, necessary only to military men, but to assist in the acquirement of a skilful bridle-hand, a firm seat, balance, &c.; and these are only to be obtained by application, combined with practice.

## ON THE SIDE-SADDLE.

In most cases a tree is made entirely to fit the horse, without any reference whatever to the comfort or safety of the rider. All horses having high withers require a narrow tree, but it should not be too narrow. All Side-saddles should be quite flat between the crutches. It is that fault which causes so many ladies to be laid up, and all the weight and pressure of the body entirely to depend on the inside of the right knee and leg; consequently, the lady must lean on one side and turn the saddle very much out of its intended place. The seat of the saddle should be a little hollow for safety as well as ease; not the present ridiculous and unsafe mode of a drum-head seat, which neither gives security, grace, nor comfort to the rider. *(See plate for*

1

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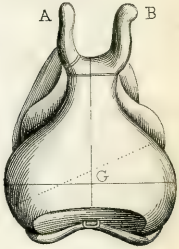


4

*the proper formation of the crutch.)* All saddles should be stuffed, either before or behind, to bring the saddle perfectly flat on the animal's back, so as to admit of the rider's sitting perfectly level on the saddle, and not hanging on by the knee, and clinging to the crutch for safety. In many cases, saddles are made too wide between the crutch, and this throws about the rider, and makes her ride unsteady. To remedy this, put a cap over the near or left crutch well stuffed, and that will afford much ease as well as safety to the rider.

*(See plate Nos.* 1, 2 *and* 3.*)*

No 1. This has too much inclination from A to B for safety.

No. 2. This is more flat, and of course more safe, from A to B, and is called a flat crutch.

No. 3 is correct, the crutch is flat, and the letter G in the centre of the seat and is a little hollow. Observe how high up the knee must be, and how the crutch must lean on the incline. The

cause is not being a flat crutch. The lady is riding by her knee, and it must strain her back very much, but the figure here is represented very well and graceful, and the bridle-hand very proper.

MOUNTING.

MOUNTING.

## MOUNTING.

In mounting her horse, the lady should receive the reins in the right hand, a little more forward than the point of the horse's shoulder, drawing them towards her smoothly and evenly, feeling the horse's mouth very slightly with the snaffle rein only, retaining the whip also in the right hand, which she passes over the right side of the saddle, allowing the reins to glide smoothly as before between her fingers, until they reach the near crutch of the pommel. This pommel she should take hold of with her right hand, still holding the whip and reins, and placing herself close to the near side of the saddle—taking care that, in passing her hand through the reins, they are not allowed to become loose, so as to prevent her, when her hand

is on the pommel, from having a light feeling with the snaffle bit. Attention to this rule, will keep her horse to his position whilst mounting.

The groom must stoop to receive her left foot, which must be placed firmly in his hand, putting her left hand on his right shoulder, and, by straightening her left knee, she bears her weight on her assistant's hand, which he raises; then, by giving a spring, and taking care to keep the knee perfectly straight, she is easily lifted into the saddle. Some ladies prefer their grooms using both hands, that is, joining them by their fingers, but, in either case, he must not attempt to raise her until her right foot is off the ground. It is also of importance that her foot should not be put forward during the elevation, but kept firmly under her.

The author has had many ladies who could mount themselves. This requires considerable practice, and is done by having the stirrup lowered to about a foot from the ground, holding the

pommel of the saddle with the right hand, when, with a spring, she is elevated into it. The stirrup is then adjusted to its proper length. This is the most elegant and lady-like way of mounting ; but, it is only to be acquired by considerable practice. There is also an advantage arising from this mode —the groom not quitting the horse's head ; at the same time, taking care that he only touches that part of the bridle which comes down the cheek of the horse ; for, as some animals are fidgetty in mounting, this practice generally steadies them, because no pressure on the bit is occasioned by it. When on the saddle, the left foot is placed into the stirrup, moving the hand from the near to the off-crutch of the pommel, still retaining the reins as before directed, and raising herself on the stirrup with her right hand. It is then usual for the groom or assistant to adjust the habit ; but this the lady might dispense with, if she follow the proper way of dressing for the exercise ; and, if so

equipped, she is, as to the arrangement of the skirt, quite independent, as she can at any time, with very little practice, pull herself forward on the crutch with the right hand, whilst, with the left, the dress is easily arranged, the horse still going at any pace. When the habit is settled to her mind, the right knee is placed in the pommel, and her seat is complete.

THE REINS.

## THE REINS.

Much depends upon the quietness of holding the reins, that is, the bridle hand must be kept steady and light, if the due feeling of the horse's mouth is to be preserved. The whip must be so held that the point does not tickle or irritate the horse. The reins being held in the left hand, may be separated by the third and fourth fingers, or one of the fingers only. This is not a point of consequence, so that they be carried flat on each other, through the hand, with the thumb placed tightly on them, leaving the horse at liberty to feel the hand, and not the weight of the arms on his mouth. The elbow must neither be squeezed too tightly to the side, nor thrust out too far, but carried easily, inclining a little from the body.

The thumb must be uppermost and the lower part of the hand nearer the waist than the upper, the wrist a little rounded, and the little finger in a line with the elbow. On wishing the horse to go forward, the lady must bring her thumb towards her, the knuckles upwards, with the nails over his neck. By this movement most horses will advance, unless the rider has accustomed him to the bad practice of whipping. On his moving, the lady's hand must be but slightly advanced, the thumb being immediately turned upwards. The reins must be so long, that, in case of stumbling, she may be able to raise the horse's head, and, in some degree, support him. By this is meant a a horse that might make a false step, as it would be impossible for a lady to hold up, by main strength, a stumbling animal, and more particularly a dull inactive one. Care must be also taken, that the reins be not held over-loose, or she would be subject to falling off backwards on

the horse's rising; but if, on knowing him, she finds a tight rein unnecessary, she must advance the arm, but not the shoulder too much, still keeping the usual length of rein, by which means she will have a check upon him, and, at the same time, indulge him by lessening the pressure on the bit. She must, also, keep the horse's head sufficiently high to shew his neck and crest, playing a little with the reins, moving the bit in his mouth, that he may not press on it in one constant motion, but using the curb carefully, for a lady cannot be too cautious of its use with a horse that is strange to her. She may pull his head about any way with the snaffle, but not so with the curb; as the most quiet horse, might bring his rider into danger, should the curb hurt him. Hence the necessity, if the lady is dependent on her groom, for great caution. Whenever the horse is heavy, he should be stopped, and made to go back a few paces, which breaks, by degrees,

his propensity to pressing on his bridle. Much more might be elucidated on these points, but it is not required here. A lady possessing a good hand, will soon find out the strength of her horse's mouth, and if she is so unfortunate as to have one that is not under the controul of the bits in general use, it is necessary to procure one of a different construction, that will better answer the purpose. There are many, of late invention, named after those who have contrived them; such as the Chiffney, and others, all designed to assist the rider in overcoming difficulties of this nature. The same might be observed with respect to ladies being mounted on the off-pommel. Many persons may never, perhaps, have observed a lady so mounted, but it is sometimes required, and when it is, the instructions for mounting to the right must be reversed.

## THE SEAT, BALANCE, &c.

The saddle should, as nearly as possible, fit the rider as well as the horse, although the backs of animals certainly vary, but, with all, it is necessary to avoid obstructing the action of the horse's shoulder. The body ought to preserve its balance, as well as maintain the seat, which will be done by sitting firmly in the centre of the saddle, avoiding the common practice of hanging on by the near crutch, but allowing the weight of the body to rest on the centre of the saddle; the shoulders square, advancing neither of them and having no weight on the stirrup; bearing in mind that it is only placed on the saddle, to support the left foot, and to assist the body, to rise in the trot.

The pommel, when properly used, is the lady's

principal dependence, but she must not hang on by it; only taking care to slightly elevate the point of the right foot, and, by pressing the leg against the fore-flap of the saddle, the pommel is grasped, and the rider well secured in her seat.

In the school, it is sometimes necessary to convince a lady of the inutility and inelegance, of hanging on by the crutch as well as bearing her weight upon the stirrup, by letting her ride without one whilst the master longes the horse, through his various degrees of speed. By this means, she soon discovers, that she can accompany him with precision and ease, independent of pressing on the stirrup, or hanging on by the near pommel, and she will acquire a correct seat, without being stiff; and ease, without the appearance of carelessness. For if she is not mistress of her seat, she will be unable to preserve a proper position of her limbs and body. If a lady, on leaning far enough to the right, can see her horse's shoe, whilst she is going

at a brisk trot, she has acquired a correct seat, a point of great consequence to her comfort, and of importance to her personal appearance. To accomplish this she should spare no pains.

The balance consists in a knowledge of what direction any motion of the horse would throw the body into, and it is regulated by the horse's legs, so that the person move in unison with them and thus prevent an improper inclination to the right or left. If the animal is standing still, or walking straight forward, the lady must preserve the simple position on taking her seat. It is never safe, nor does it look well, to go round the corners of a town at a brisk pace, though ladies in the *country* and on *their own grounds frequently do it*, but it is highly necessary to observe, that, in so doing, the body must be kept back a little more than in the walking position; at the same time, bending a little forward, and by keeping the eye as before directed to the head of the animal, she

can always humour his movements. Thus, for instance, should he shy, or even turn suddenly round, or on one side only, the body ought to balance itself, and turn with him; otherwise, if the balance be not preserved, the lady is in danger of being thrown off, on the side from which the horse starts. She must also remember, that, in no case, is she justified, in trying to save herself, or recover her balance, by pulling on the reins; as, in doing so, if the horse has a fine mouth, she may increase the danger of her situation, and perhaps, pull the horse down.

The author has been told by ladies who have ridden well with him, and upon his horses, that they had encountered accidents when riding strange animals, from their shying, &c., which had prevented them from continuing their exercises without his attendance. It might be here observed, that the lady's attention was probably engaged on some other subject, forgetting that she was on a

strange horse, which required her whole occupation, and not adhering to the old rule of keeping an eye on the head of the animal, which, had she done, she might probably have preserved her balance, and prevented her any unpleasant consequences.

A horse that is not a determined shyer, may in most cases be prevented from starting, by the rider turning his head a little away from those objects, which, from experience, she knows are likely to alarm him, before she approaches, as well as while she is passing them. But it is needless to observe that a quiet, well trained horse, should, if possible, be procured, by which is meant to convey the idea of a docile, and yet lively animal.

## TO WALK.

If a lady wish her horse to walk only, she must be prepared with her reins steadily and firmly grasped, her seat well taken in the centre of the saddle, upright, the shoulders thrown back, the waist forward, and the head and eye steady. She must keep him in a straight line, merely supporting his head to make him keep time with his paces, and not holding the reins too tight; for if she does this, she will retard his steps and make him alter his pace. Should he at any time require animating, the hand is to be carried so as to feel the mouth on the rein at every beat of his action, and, if she wishes to turn to the right, she must remember, in using both reins, to slacken the left, which will ease the horse's mouth, and, *vice versâ*, to turn to the left.

THE STOP.

## THE STOP.

The positive stop is a total cessation of all action on the part of the horse, and may be performed by the lady instantaneously, by increasing the firmness of the hand, throwing the body well back and drawing the reins towards her; at the same time pressing the horse's haunches forward with the left leg, and, if necessary, using the whip, so that he may bear on the bit, and taking care not to stop in a careless, uncertain manner whilst the horse is in the middle, instead of at the conclusion, of his paces; bearing in mind, that, to complete the stop, she must keep him united and correct in all his paces.

## TO CANTER.

A CANTER is the pace which a lady generally prefers, as being the most elegant, and agreeable to herself, as well as to the horse, and which consists in its union and animation, rather than its speed.

If the horse is well trained, a slight elevation of his head by means of the reins, will make him strike into the canter, and, to make him advance his right leg, she must incline the near rein a little towards her, at the same time touching him lightly with the whip should he not immediately do it; remembering that if the hind legs do not follow the direction of the fore ones, the pace is not true, which is as unpleasant to the horse as to the rider. Sometimes ladies do not know if their horses are

THE CANTER.

cantering with the right or left leg, and does not this show the necessity of acquiring the power of judging, by means of a proper course of tuition, and exercise in the riding-school?

The canter might be increased to the gallop. Should the horse not understand the lady's will and merely increase his walk, or go from the walk to the trot, she is to press forward on the bit, animate him by pressing the left leg against him, using also the whip, holding the reins still firmly, in order to prevent his advancing too rapidly forward, which will make him bring his haunches under him, and to support which, he will, in this position, keep both his hind feet, for a moment, on the ground, while he commences the canter, by rising his fore feet together; but a horse that has been well trained, and has been kept to his duty, will seldom, if ever, require any other animation, than slightly elevating his head, &c.

Stopping the horse in a canter is accomplished

in the same manner as the perfect stop, but the time for so doing should be when the animal's fore feet are descending, as, of course, then, the hind ones will follow, when the stop will be completed, remembering that, in a very long canter (which is literally a gallop) the horse should be brought in gradually to a trot, as, stopping him too suddenly very much distresses him, and is also unsafe to the lady; but this pace, is seldom, in road riding, practised by ladies, as they have too much feeling to distress their horses unnecessarily.

THE TROT.

## ON THE TROT.

Authors on horsemanship have recommended the Trot to be practised as soon as the pupil is perfect in the walk, but the author is frequently obliged to differ from the general rule, as some ladies become disheartened with having too much to perform, particularly if they cannot soon acquire it. All will canter, and when they can do so, are pleased with themselves, and if a master has patience and proper time is given to him, so as not to weary his pupils with too much discipline, to make them dislike the routine, most of them might become scientific horsewomen, and not lose the desire for the exercise, after they have been taught it. This should be made an object of importance to the lady, as it certainly is, in a pecu-

niary view, to the master; it being essential to his credit, if he has proper time allowed him, that his pupils, should acquire a correct knowledge of horsemanship, and, after years of experience, the author has always found that to canter first has succeeded best; and given a zest to his pupils without any disadvantage to them, and that they have, after completing their lessons with him, regularly followed up the practice of riding both with his attendance and without it; enjoying their exercises if they have but safe horses, and returning home with exhilarated spirits and animation —the usual accompaniments of health.

Making the horse go forwards from a walk to a trot which must be moderately commenced, is done by slightly elevating the reins in the left hand, and turning it towards the body, accompanied by the pressure of the left leg, taking hold also of a lock of the horse's mane and letting it gradually go again, as the seat is found; for the rise, in the

trot, is only to be acquired by practice, the lady recollecting that, if she cannot immediately accomplish it, she must not be discouraged, as, with very little perseverance, it is easily obtained.

It is seldom that a self-taught amateur trots correctly, as the lady in this case rises too frequently to the left of the saddle; whereas she ought to rise to the right of it. Rising to the left is a very bad practice; it is decidedly dangerous and must be guarded against, for, if she should rise too high to the left, which is so often done, she is liable to be thrown out of the saddle altogether; therefore the closer she sits, with comfort to herself, in the rise, the safer she is, and the better her appearance must necessarily be. If the horse starts off very rapidly, or increases the pace beyond the lady's wish, she must close her hand firmly, drawing the reins in a little, which will check him, without altering his pace; observing not to jerk them, as, if she does, it will, perhaps,

make him take to the canter, but as soon as the proper trot is produced, the reins must be gradually slackened. The lady must advance her body to the right; when the horse, in his action, raises her from her seat, resting a considerable portion of her weight on the right knee and left foot; by means of which, and by bearing the left foot on the stirrup, she might return to her position without in the least jerking herself. The stirrup is then indispensable in the trot, but only in occasional aids, and for no pace is it necessary to use it. Should the leg be cramped in it, she will be prevented from using it when, perhaps, as an aid, she might require it. To stop in the trot, the lady must lean well back, observing, as in the perfect stop, to do so when the leading legs are coming to the ground, so that it is completed when the other fore and hind legs advance.

## TO REIN BACK THE HORSE.

Backing, or reining back a horse, is done by by drawing the reins equally and steadily towards the body, yielding them to the horse again if he obeys; being careful not to bear too much on the curb if he is a stranger, as, by so doing, if he is an unsteady, badly-broken horse, he might rear or plunge with the lady; but, if she has been used to riding, she might, as before noticed, pull him about any way with the snaffle bridle; but great care must be used with the curb with strange horses.

## LEAPING.

THERE are two kinds of leaps, the standing leap and the flying leap.

The bar for leaping, in the school, is so contrived as to fall, when touched by the horse's feet, if he does not clear it.

The standing leap is the safest to begin with, and is taken close to the bar. A horse that has been trained for the purpose, will, generally, take to it very steadily; and, if the master is near, there is no danger whatever to be apprehended.

In leaping, as in all cases, the lady must be governed by the action of the horse, recollecting not to bear any weight on the stirrup, as it disposes the body to rise from the saddle as for the trot, which must, in both leaps, be particularly

guarded against. On the lady's pressing the right leg against the pommel of the saddle, and yielding the hand and reins to the horse, he will rise, when she must advance her body forward, whilst, at the same time, she bends the back inward, keeping the head in an upright, steady manner, and when the horse's hind legs are off the ground, she must incline the body backwards. But if she bears heavily on the reins, the horse cannot avoid forcing her hand, which will, in all probability, bring her forward on his neck; if not entirely over his head as she descends. When the lady has cleared the leap, she must bring the horse together in his paces, as, he may, perhaps, afterwards be disunited.

In the flying leap, the distance for the horse to run previous to taking it, is from twelve to fifteen yards. It is much easier than the standing one, and taken from any pace, the seat, balance, bridle hand, &c., are the same as for the standing leap, the reins yielded, &c.; but the position of the

body is diametrically contrary, as it must, on no account, be advanced when the horse rises, because the position is more horizontal than when he rises to the bar as a stop; so that it would be most unwise to do so for this reason—should the horse refuse the leap, or check himself, on the lady's wishing him to take it, and she should stoop forward, as in the standing leap, she would be in great danger of being thrown; so that the body must take that inclination backwards which the horse, on springing forwards, will produce; his head being guided to the bar, and the reins yielded to him. Indolent horses that have been well trained will require animating to make them take a leap, but an active horse should be allowed his own pace.

DISMOUNTING.

## TO DISMOUNT.

It is necessary for the lady to bring her horse to the perfect stop before she attempts to dismount him; and also to see that the habit is perfectly free from entanglement. Then taking the reins in the right hand, she must carry them to the off-crutch of the saddle. Then she must disengage the right leg from the pommel, clearing the dress also, as she takes her foot from the stirrup, bending the knees a little, and alighting if possible on the toes, to prevent the too sudden jerking of the body in her descent. This is the proper mode of dismounting, whether the lady is assisted to do so, or prefers jumping off herself; in this case she should not do it, if the horse is lofty, though she is active; but place her left hand, &c., in the attendant's, who will assist her to do so. To dismount gracefully, it is necessary to practise more frequently

than the mere descending from the saddle, after an exercise, or an airing.

The author publishes these practical remarks, at the particular request of some of his pupils, who will, on reading them, be only perusing information they have already acquired; but it will also show them that they had occasion for a master's instructions, and their own study to become scientific, as well as good horsewomen. They will also shew the necessity of being careful of strange horses, and, on no account, to risk themselves upon one, that has been discovered to be decidedly vicious, as it is not in the power of a lady to conquer a regularly bad tempered creature, or to be expected to be capable of horse-breaking; although there is a proper degree of spirit and perseverance required with even well-trained horses, to keep them up to their proper paces, and, should an occasion offer, to shew them, that their rider must, in all her wishes, be obeyed. Should the lady be so unfortunate, as to be placed on

an animal given to shying, stumbling, rearing, or any such train of vices, it is necessary that she should, for self preservation, know how to act. Therefore the following observations, partly transcribed from a more elaborate work, not before the general reader, and with some general and practical remarks of his own, will supply the requisite information.

The lady must keep in mind, that her horse requires haltings, and relaxation, and that the time of each lesson in a riding-house, should be according to the pace, &c., that the lesson has been performed in; for, if it has been animated, he should rest or quietly walk, at the end of ten or twelve minutes; and, when so refreshed, he might go through his paces again, as the lesson so taken, if varied in the school, is equal to four hours' moderate work, making it impossible, if that lesson has been animated, for the horse to work again that day—a circumstance quite overlooked by a great many persons.

# ON AIDS, DEFENCES, &c.

"In road or dingle, Heath or wood."

SOMERVILLE.

ALL those motions of the body, the hands, the legs, and the whip, which indicate the rider's wishes, or, in any degree, assist the horse to perform them, are, in the science of riding, denominated Aids. Those movements of the rider which tend to save the animal from disuniting himself, or running into danger, may properly enough be classed under the same title; while such as act for the preservation of the rider against the attempts of the horse, when headstrong, or vicious, may more properly be termed Defences. The aids of the hand are the most important, the rein in horsemanship, being as the helm in navigation;

all the other movements of the rider, tending to assist the bridle hand and carry its operations into effect.

There should be a perfect harmony in the aids, and they should all be governed by the rein :— The power of a defence, operated on by the hand, might be lost by the omission of a correct accompaniment of the body, whip, &c. Thus, if a horse rear, it is useless for the rider to afford him a slack rein, if she does not lean forward, in order to throw her weight on his fore parts to endeavour to bring him down for the purpose of saving herself from falling back over his haunches; as, if he rears high, and she hangs on the curb, she will, perhaps, pull him upon her. The aids and defences of the body are numerous. If the horse is sluggish, and is required to walk, the whip must be pressed against his sides; should the lady pull the rein towards her, communicating the desire to stop, she must draw back the body gently

or otherwise, in proportion to the severity of the action of the hand against the horse's inclination, to increase his speed, contrary to the will of his rider, or, when he leaps, kicks or plunges.

If a horse rear, the lady should lean forward, more than in the aid to advance; but care must be taken, if the animal is a pony or galloway, as it is likely, if the lady advances too much, she will get a blow on the face or head. The aids of the whip correspond with the leg, and, if the lady use them together, they will materially advance her wishes. The aid of the whip must be increased as circumstances require. The aid which is enough for nine horses might not be powerful enough for the tenth, whilst a slight pressure of the left leg might be enough for another.

The voice, the hand, the leg, and the body may be employed to soothe and encourage the horse. High mettled or fretful ones, it is often necessary to soothe, and timid ones to encourage.

A spirited animal is frequently impatient when first mounted, or if a horse, carriage, &c., pass him quickly; and some horses are even too animated in company with others. When this is the case the lady must speak frequently to her horse, and soothe him, not suffering the whip in any way to touch him, but holding it in the left hand whilst she encourages him with the right, and at the time keeping the bridle hand and seat steady; as, even in soothing the animal, the lady must sit as still as possible, so as not to add to the horse's animation. A shy timid horse might be often encouraged to pass any thing, when forcing or correcting him for trifles will only add to his fears and make him obstinate. Although it is certainly not advisable to encourage or soothe a horse for shying, yet it is equally necessary to avoid a quarrel with him if possible, but let him know he has done wrong by some tone of voice expressive of disapprobation, &c., and it is better to go a little from, and avoid

an object he dislikes, unless the lady wishes him to become accustomed to it; and then it is also better to do it by degrees than to quarrel with, punish him, and after all submit to him; for horses have good memories and are ever disposed to repeat what they have done, if they find they intimidate their riders. When it is necessary with dull, sluggish horses to animate them, it becomes indeed correction, yet if this be not varied with the aid of the hand, &c., with different degrees of force, they will, by constant practice, lose their effect. A good rider will, on finding her horse bear heavily, &c. on the bit, animate him before he loses the equality of his action, or the grace of his carriage; but those ladies who imagine that the whip is their only weapon for so doing, are mistaken; the aids of the hand, left leg, body, and voice will, in a great many cases, answer better than correction. There are many ways of attaining the same end, and those that are the least ob-

vious to the horse, are best, as no lady can rival him in bodily power, but she may defeat and conquer him by superior skill and ingenuity. A horse soon discovers that the left hand is weaker than the right, therefore, if he is vicious and given to turning round without giving any previous intimation of so doing, he generally turns on the off side, and with great force, and suddenly, making it impossible for the lady to prevent him, even if she sees what he is going to do. In this case it would be unwise to attempt it, as the lady would be foiled, and the horse would be encouraged by his success; so that, when he turns to the right or off side, she must pull him also with the right hand, instead of making him turn to the left by pulling him by the left hand, and compelling him to go round until he has made a circle two or three times, when he will discover, that he is exactly in the same place from which he turned or started. A horse also that will not advance and by whip-

ping him he would only be more obstinate, or perhaps rear, or even run away, she should endeavour to make walk backwards, until he is of himself willing to advance.

A runaway horse should never be placed under the guidance of a lady, but, if it should happen that, from impatience or impetuosity of temper, the horse should bear more on the bit than may be pleasant, or increase his speed beyond the power of the rider to hold him in, it must be borne in mind, that it is not a dead heavy pull that will stop him. It is on the contrary more likely to cause an increase of speed. Occasionally slackening the reins, and suddenly pulling them up, is more likely to pacify the animal and reduce him under controul.

Restive horses, and sometimes even quiet ones, that have been put out of temper, will try to crush their rider's legs against gates, &c. An inexperienced rider will endeavour to pull him away, but

it would be perfectly useless. Although she must keep in mind that she must subdue her horse, yet it is unnecessary and impolitic to enter into warfare with him, but, by mild means, she must attack him in his weak point; for, if he will go back she must let him until he shows the disposition to go on, and if he will do so again, she must rein him back until he is tired of going in that direction. The best mode of subduing a horse is to turn his attacks upon himself and making his defences appear acts of obedience to his rider. This treatment disheartens him, and this is the only mode of rightly subduing him, for if he will run against a wall, the rider must pull his head forcibly towards it; he will then generally desist, and should he not, his croupe might be so turned out, by the aid of the whip, that he will not do his rider much, if any harm. Should he stand still, the lady might also do the same, and so turn his attacks upon himself.

If a horse turn round and shy through timidity, he must be soothed and encouraged to pass the object that alarms him; as to attempt to force him up to it would be dangerous to the rider. It is usual, in the military school, to accustom a horse that is alarmed at a beat of a drum, to let him hear it; when, if he had been whipped up to it, he would, in all probability, always have started and shyed at the sound. But it is too often expected that the horse's fears must be instantly conquered, and, in such cases he arms himself always afresh at sight of the dreaded object; when his rider, in order not to be conquered, thrusts him forward with his face directed towards it. Horses are exceedingly careful as it respects their eyesight; and can see perfectly sideways, and after the first terror is over, a horse will manifest great inclination to go up and examine the object that alarmed him, if his rider show no wish to force him near it; so that a nervous, timid horse should be encouraged

and coaxed up to what might have alarmed him, and he will be less likely to start again from a similar cause; but the lady must be more than usually cautious that she evinces no timidity herself, as even the rustling of a leaf may frighten him afresh, when he will start round more violently than before.

But a lady ought undoubtedly to avoid riding horses that are decidedly vicious. Stumbling animals are also very unsafe, although the best horses will sometimes meet with the misfortune of breaking their knees or occasionally make a false step, but it is advisable not to ride one that is given to stumbling, as it is not possible to feel safe on his back, which must very materially mar the pleasure of the exercise.

If a horse trip, and the lady is not instantly prepared to throw herself back, relieving his shoulders of her weight and raising the bridle hand to support his head, she is liable to be thrown. A

horse should not be corrected for stumbling as, if it is not habitual with him, he will start forwards, and be very liable to stumble again before he has regained his self possession. A horse that is not given to tripping, will, on making a false step, gather or slightly animate himself and go on again as if nothing had happened; but a horse that is given to tripping, generally darts forward after the stumble, fearing the punishment which is too often given to him for so doing.

If a horse kicks, the reins might be separated with, and held in both hands holding them tightly so as to keep his head up as much as possible, for the higher his head is held up, the less can he throw up his heels. The lady must have her body as pliant as possible, to be prepared in her defence. The oak has been frequently rooted up by the storm, whilst the humbler yielding reed has again risen when the storm has passed by; so it is with the skilful horsewoman who, preparing and yield-

ing herself in some measure to the motion of the horse, wards off the danger, if she does not even turn his attacks upon himself. The body must be flexible, but ready for action, and, if the animal will persevere in keeping his head down, she must endeavour, by means of the reins, to keep him from falling, throwing her body backward to save herself from being thrown also forward; recollecting that, whilst she is holding him well in hand to prevent him from kicking, she must not cause him to rear by too much pressure on the bit. On correcting a horse for kicking, the whip must be applied to his shoulder, and if an opportunity offers, she must give him two or three smart turns to divert him if possible from his purpose. It is seldom that a kicking horse rears high, but he might alternately do both; therefore she must keep the position of the body, in readiness for either of his attempts.

If a horse is given to rearing, it is a troublesome vice, as if the lady pulls on the reins, he is liable to fall back upon her, or to throw her out of the saddle. Immediately the horse shows any disposition to rear, if she cannot pull him round, and so prevent him by diverting him from his object, she must slacken her reins, and bend the body forward to throw her weight more fully on his shoulders, correcting him smartly. When his fore feet come down again, and she has recovered her position, she must recollect to whip him behind the saddle for rearing; although many experienced horsemen affirm that correcting a horse on his hind quarters is likely to make a rearing one kick, and correcting a kicking horse on the shoulder, will sometimes make him rear; but the lady cannot do more than correct the positive evil, if she wishes to conquer him.

Should these observations, drawn from practical as well as theoretical experience, assist the

author's pupils to acquire the art of Riding gracefully and securely, and add to the desire to follow it up, when they have the opportunity, in the riding-school, when the weather, &c., prevents them from enjoying the exercise out of doors, his aim will be accomplished, and, in concluding this little treatise, the Author most respectfully solicits the indulgence of his fair readers towards it, and begs to assure them that vanity has not prompted him to intrude it upon them. He begs, also, to observe that he has been careful not to get up a large book, by introducing any superficial, irrelevant matter, which, if he had done, he must have decked himself, like the jack daw in the fable, in borrowed plumes. His object has been to simplify the art to his pupils, and as most ladies wish to ride well, it will also show the self-taught amateur that, in order to obtain a correct knowledge of the useful and delightful science of horsemanship, it is better acquired by a course of lessons

from a competent master, with a little study and application, than by riding years without this advantage.

" ——— let cavillers deny
" That Brutes have reason ; sure 'tis something more;
" 'Tis Heaven directs and stratagems inspire
" Beyond the short extent of human thought."

SOMERVILLE.

GEORGE REEVES,

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*Cheltenham.*

FINIS.

MEYLER AND SON, PRINTERS, BATH.